

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

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R 091852Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6700

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH REACTION TO TINDEMANS REPORT

1. AS OF JANUARY 9, GOF HAS MADE NO FORMAL COMMENT ON TINDEMANS REPORT. COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING WEEKLY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS METING AT ELYSEE ON JANUARY 7 -- AN OFTEN-USED VEHICLE FOR PUBLICIZING GOF VIEWS ON KEY ISSUES -- WAS NOTABLY SILENT ON TINDEMANS REPORT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT, FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES HAS INDICATED THAT HIS "FIRSTIMPRESSION" OF THE REPORT "IS NOT BAD," BUT THAT CERTAIN OF TINDEMANS' PROPOSALS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING THE ROLE OF THE EC COMMISSION, ARE OPEN TO CRITICISM.

2. COMMUNIST ORGAN "HUMANITE" HAS JUMPED TO THE ATTACK LABELING
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TINDEMANS' PROPOSALS AS THREATENING TO END THE POLITICAL

INDEPENDENCE OF FRANCE. DEBRE, FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND SELF-APPOINTED GUARDIAN OF GAULLIST MYTHOLOGY, TOOK PREDICTABLY SIMILAR LINE, SAYING REPORT IS "A VERY BAD MOVE AGAINST EUROPE." HE ADDED THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE ROUTE TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON POLICIES BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN NATIONS: THROUGH REGULAR MEETINGS OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFS OF STATE.

3. GISCARD WILL BE INTERVIEWED ON FRENCH TV EVENING OF JANUARY 13. IF GOF DOES NOT MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON TINDEMANS REPORT BEFORE THEN, TV INTERVIEW WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO PROBE GISCARD'S ATTITUDE ON THAT SUBJECT.

4. IN RELATED ACTION, DURING HIS VISIT TO PARIS JANUARY 6, PM THRON OF LUXEMBOURG TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE NEXT EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING -- IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH IN LUXEMBOURG -- WOULD CONCENTRATE ON TINDEMANS REPORT.

5. IN OTHER PRESS REACTION, THE GAULLIST PARTY (UDR) NEWSLETTER, "LA LETTRE DE LA NATION," THURSDAY CRITICIZED THE TINDEMANS REPORT'S "UNFORTUNATE TENDENCIES TO SUPRANATIONALITY" AND SAID: "OUR ANSWER IS NO".

6. IN THE VIEW OF SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS AND COMMERCIAL RADIO STATIONS, THE TINDEMANS REPORT IS, AS "QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS" PUT IT, "A ROCK THAT WILL CAUSE RIPPLES; IN THE FRENCH POLITICAL POND AND WILL FEED POLEMICS FOR A LONG TIME. THIS WAS NOTABLY THE OPINION OF RICHARD LISCIO IN "LE QUOTIDIEN" AND OF ALAIN DUHAMEL ON EUROPE ONE RADIO, WHO DESCRIBED PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AS TORN BETWEEN HIS FAITHFULNESS TO PRESIDENT GISCARD AND THE PROTESTS FROM THE GAULLIST DIEHARDS, SUCH AS DEBRE.

7. THE VIEW OF THE MODERATE PRO-EUROPEANS WAS EXPRESSED BY BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT JEAN LECERF, WHO WONDERED IN "FIGARO" WHETHER MR. TINDEMANS WOULD NOT HAVE HAD BETTER CHANCES OF REACHING HIS GOAL IF HE HAD MADE BOLDER RECOMMENDATIONS.

8. EUROPE ONE RADIO FRIDAY SAID THE MAIN THING TO BE REMEMBERED FROM THE TINDEMANS REPORT IS THAT EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNITY BY 1980 IS NOW OUT OF THE QUESTION.

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9. ON FRIDAY MORNING ALSO COMMENTATOR EDOUARD SABLIER ON FRANCE-INTER SAID THE WIDESPREAD SKEPTICISM OF EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION IN THE FACE OF THE TINDEMANS PROPOSALS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT MOST OF THE EUROPEAN LEADERS WON'T MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TOWARD SETTING UP A COMMON FOREIGN POLICY FOR FEAR OF DISPLEASEING THE US OR THE USSR. THERE WON'T BE ANY EUROPEAN UNION, HE SAID, UNLESS RELATIONS WITH THE US AND WITH THE USSR ARE CLEARLY

DEFINED BEFOREHAND.

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